

# The Observer

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## **Catholic Honor Roll names Aurora and Marian Central Catholic high schools among nation's top 50** (10/28/2004)

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. -- The Catholic High School Honor Roll announced last week that Marian Central Catholic High School and Aurora Central Catholic High School had been selected as two of the best 50 secondary schools in America.

The first annual Honor Roll, which will serve as an invaluable resource for students, parents and benefactors, recognizes the nation's top 50 high schools based on their demonstrated commitment to academic excellence, Catholic identity and civic education.

Honor Roll schools ranged from the 23-student Holy Rosary Academy in Anchorage, Alaska, to St. Thomas Aquinas High School in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., a school with 2,100 students.

The state of Illinois, with seven schools selected, led the way, followed by Texas (5) and New York and Ohio (4 each). In all, schools from 25 states made the Honor Roll.

To see a complete list of the schools, please go to the Catholic High School Honor Roll Web site at [www.chshonor.org](http://www.chshonor.org).

Bishop Thomas G. Doran said, "The Diocese of Rockford strives for excellence in each of our schools. I am pleased that Marian Central Catholic High School and Aurora Central Catholic High School are being recognized for their high level of accomplishments in the areas of Catholic identity, academics and civil education. Congratulations to the administration, faculty, students and parents for their commitment to Catholic education."

Other honorees from Illinois: Carmel High School (Mundelein); Marian Catholic High School (Chicago Heights); Brother Rice High School (Chicago); St. Ignatius College Preparatory School (Chicago).

Advisory board member Gerard Bradley, Professor of Law at the University of Notre Dame, said the Honor Roll will serve as a benchmark for all who are seeking an education informed by faith.

"It draws attention to schools that are contributing in extraordinary ways to the moral and intellectual formation of young people," he said.

The primary goal of the Honor Roll is to encourage schools to educate their students as effectively as possible, in a way that integrates Catholic faith and prepares students for active engagement with the world.

In addition to the Top 50 list, the Honor Roll also published the top 20 finalists in three categories that are important to overall excellence: academics, Catholic identity and civic education.

Strength in each of the three areas was key to placing on the Honor Roll, according to the project's director, Dr. Kevin Schmiesing. "There are Jesuit, Dominican, diocesan and independent schools on this list," he said. "It reflects the diversity of Catholicism in the United States. What is common to all of the schools is outstanding commitment to the educational mission of the Church."

The Catholic High School Honor Roll is an independent project of the Acton Institute for the Study of Religion & Liberty, an international research and educational organization based in Grand Rapids, Mich.

The Honor Roll was produced in consultation with a national advisory board comprised of Catholic college presidents and noted Catholic scholars.

For more on Acton, please go to [www.acton.org](http://www.acton.org).